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Airport Concessions Earn 1st Place...Again! Repeat Performance in "Best Overall Program" Category

They're familiar words but we certainly never get tired of hearing them...San Antonio International Airport wins first place for the "Best Overall Concessions Program." Airport Revenue News, the industry's leading trade magazine, announced the results of its 2005 Best Concessions Poll this month and once again San Antonio International Airport led the way in the small airports category. Aviation Director Kevin Dolliole accepted the award at an A.R.N. banquet on February 3rd 2005. "It's a tremendous honor to accept this award for the second year in a row" Dolliole said. "Over the past several years we've worked very hard to build positive momentum when it comes to our concessions program and this award reinforces the idea that we're on the right track."

Dolliole says that the judges take a number of things into consideration when deciding on the "Best Overall" winner. The award is given to the airport with a program that best incorporates a convenient, customer-friendly layout, good visibility, attractive storefronts, unique and interesting store mix and distinctive themes. Of course all of these items were part of SAT's own checklist when it finished the Terminal Renovations and Concession Redevelopment Program in 2003. That program added 10,000 square feet of concession space, brought in a new food court area and did it all while incorporating a distinct South Texas flavor. It's a program that continues to place San Antonio International Airport at the forefront of customer satisfaction in the concessions area and the A.R.N. award is further evidence of that fact.

And "Best Overall" wasn't the only category where SAT had an opportunity to shine. Second place awards were also brought home in the following areas:

Airport with Best Concessions Program Design
Airport with Best Concessions Management Team
Airport with Most Unique Services

"If you look at those three categories as a whole it's very telling" Dolliole said. "We have the right design upfront, which allows us to offer our customers the type of services they're requesting and then finally we've got the right team to pull it all together."

A.R.N. uses a panel of industry experts to decide the results of its "Best Concessions Poll." Those experts choose from stores, restaurants and airport programs that have been nominated in an earlier process.